

Regional AGENDA

METROPOLITAN KING COUNTY COUNCIL

December 1999



Budget and Fiscal Management Chair Jane Hague (right) and Vice Chair Greg Nickels (left) lead councilmembers in a press conference on the impacts of I-695.

King County Council cuts budget by 10 percent

The recently adopted 2000 King County budget cuts 371 jobs and reduces the overall budget by

nearly 10 percent. That reduction represents a cut of \$261 million from the previous year.

Despite more than \$70 million in lost revenue related to Initiative 695, the council approved a budget that restores vital public safety funding, while containing government growth.

The initiative to reduce the cost of car tabs, approved by voters in November, slashes funding for transportation, road construction, criminal justice, and public health.

"In October, we promised county residents a 'lean and mean' 2000 budget. That's exactly what the council adopted," said Councilmember Jane Hague, who chairs the budget committee. "This council had to make some very difficult choices to ensure a balanced budget."

The council led the way in finding efficiencies by cutting 5 percent from council agencies. The cuts will result in a savings of nearly \$1 million and a reduction of eight full-time employee positions. Those cuts helped restore funding to the sheriff's department and public health services.

Continued inside



For his work on the Sewer Plan, Councilmember Larry Phillips receives the Environmental Vision and Leadership Award.

Council approves regional sewer plan

Councilmembers approved a 30-year sewage treatment plan designed to improve regional water quality particularly during heavy periods of Northwest rainfall. The \$1.2 billion proposal calls for the construction of a new north sewage treatment plant,

along with additional sewage storage and system improvements.

"The plan is a significant step in providing needed sewage capacity to accommodate future generations, while holding

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District 1	Maggi Fimia	296-1001	District 6	Rob McKenna	296-1006	District 11	Jane Hague	296-1011
District 2	Cynthia Sullivan	296-1002	District 7	Pete von Reichbauer	296-1007	District 12	Brian Derdowski	296-1012
District 3	Louise Miller	296-1003	District 8	Greg Nickels	296-1008	District 13	Chris Vance	296-1013
District 4	Larry Phillips	296-1004	District 9	Kent Pullen	296-1009	General Phone		296-1000
District 5	Dwight Pelz	296-1005	District 10	Larry Gossett	296-1010	TTY / TDD		296-1024

Council approves



The Regional Sewer plan includes additional system improvements to ensure water quality and handle increased capacity.

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rates stable for the next 30 years," said Councilmember Larry Phillips who chairs the Regional Water Quality Committee. "The new sewage proposal will also improve environmental protection and regional water quality by reducing system overflows."

Under the plan, siting and construction of a third sewage treatment plant in north King or south Snohomish County will be completed by 2010. The plan also

includes additional system improvements to ensure water quality and handle increased capacity. Key elements of the plan:

- A northend treatment plant that could handle up to 36 million gallons of sewage per day (MGD), up from the originally proposed 18 MGD;
- A north lake interceptor, which will convey sewage to the north plant and also provide 10 million gallons of storage capacity during high flow times. The interceptor is scheduled to be completed in 2006; and,
- North Creek storage at 6 MGD by 2002 to

King County Council cuts

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"This budget protects funding for critical regional services without putting public health or safety at risk. It offers residents better accountability while protecting essential services like food safety inspections," added Councilmember Greg Nickels, vice chair of the budget committee.

Highlights of the proposed budget include:

Law, Safety and Justice

Faced with a \$5.8 million reduction in criminal justice from the loss of the Motor Vehicle Excise Tax (MVET) in 2000, councilmembers prioritized efficiencies, cuts and savings to various law, safety and justice agencies including:

- Restored six months of full funding, \$800,000, to the King County Sheriff's Department for the marine unit, air support (Guardian 1), three community service officers and a traffic unit. King County will request that the state Legislature fund the remaining six months of

service and identify a long-term funding solution;

- Restored six months of full funding, \$120,448, for the King County Superior Court arbitration program. Councilmembers will seek authority from the state Legislature to levy a user fee for the program or run arbitration through a private agency or public/private partnership.

Transportation

The council eliminated almost \$30 million from the transportation budgets, but will look for assistance from the state Legislature. Reductions in bus service are to begin in February, but the council was able to soften the blow from I-695 in other ways, including:

- Cut \$3 million from transit administration;
- Restored critical road construction projects planned through 2003, such as Juanita-Woodinville Way, Issaquah-Pine Lake Road, and the intersection of 140th Avenue with the Petrovitsky road;

regional sewer plan

provide early overflow protection for the north end.

Under the plan, the county will not expand the West Point Treatment Plant in Magnolia. Any build out of the south treatment plant in Renton will be deferred until 2029, when it could be expanded to include 3 to 5 MGD of storage.

According to Phillips, a sewage capacity charge, in which growth pays for growth, will help pay for the plan. "That policy is the most equitable for all residents as the Puget Sound region continues to see rapid growth," he said.

The plan approved by the council maintains provisions in the original executive proposal. In a deal brokered by Council Chair Louise Miller, the council changed the plan to increase capacity on the north end of Lake Washington. The deal included a north lake interceptor, which is designed to divert sewage from a line that runs along the north end of the lake. "The plan adopted by the council includes the best environmental protections possible and will allow the county to meet the demands of residents throughout the region," said Miller.

cuts budget by 10 percent

- Cut \$1.1 million from the roads administrative budget; and,
- Rejected a proposed increase in transit fares for the disabled and frail elderly.

Public Health

I-695 reduced the budget for public health by about \$10.5 million. The county will fully fund the department for the first three months of the year, including community clinics. The council also restored funding to the county's food inspection program. However, the county could be forced to cut an additional \$5.85 million from the public health budget if the state fails to provide further funding.

Environmental Quality

The council was able to free up a limited amount of money for new projects by consolidating staff and programs. The savings will be used primarily to protect endangered salmon through habitat acquisition, restoration projects and water quality improvement projects. Councilmembers also ensured funding for

improvements to ballfields at several county-owned parks.

General Government

The county found more than \$5 million in savings, cuts and efficiencies in general government agencies such as licensing and regulatory services. In addition to eliminating jobs, the council cut approximately \$1.5 million out of the council and executive agency budgets, and restricted out-of-state travel in both agencies.

"Initiative 695 presented a real challenge for this government," said Council Chair Louise Miller. "We couldn't cut \$70 million from the budget without some amount of pain. We came to a responsible compromise that will allow us time to hold discussions with the state Legislature regarding additional funding for critical programs."



Need more information on the King County Budget? Visit www.metrokc.gov/mkcc/budget to find out more.

King County Community Service Expo welcomes new citizens

Councilmember Pete von Reichbauer welcomed new citizens to south King County at the recent King County Community Service Expo held at Sea-Tac Mall in Federal Way.

More than 15 local government and non-profit



Councilmember Pete von Reichbauer (center), King County Assessor Scott Nobel (right) and Federal Way Deputy Mayor Mike Park greet citizens new to King County.

organizations participated in the event, which highlighted services available in King County. Outreach programs aimed at helping new immigrants to the United States were on hand at the Expo to discuss services with new citizens.

Immigration of Korean and Eastern European

populations to south King County has increased substantially in the past ten years. Demonstrating this growth, has been the rapid increase in the number of businesses and churches servicing Korean and Eastern European populations in the last few years.

King County and Councilmember von Reichbauer reached out to this growing population with informational booths and language interpreters explaining services available to new immigrants.

What we're doing . . .



The Metropolitan King County Council proclaimed the month of October as Disabilities Awareness Month in King County. Pictured (from left to right) are Council Chair Louise Miller with Sue Ammeter from King County's Office of Human Resource Management and Roxanne Vierra from King County's Office of Civil Rights Enforcement.

The information in this newsletter is available in alternate format upon request. Alternate format includes braille, large print, and/or audio. For more information, please call 296-1708, or TDD/TTY at 296-1024.

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